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UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: KUZEE, H.C., et al.
Serial No.: to be assigned
Filed: herewith
For: **METHOD FOR TREATING TEXTILE**

5/1/01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 8, 2000

Sir:

Prior to the examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1, lines 1-2: delete "wherein the textile is treated", insert -- comprising treating a textile --.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein at least 0.05 [, preferably from 0.2 to 2.0,] of [every] the 3 hydroxymethyl(ene) groups of the fructan on which the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based [has] have been converted into a carboxyl group and at least 0.1 [, preferably from 0.3 to 2.0,] of [every] the 3 hydroxyl groups has been converted into a carboxyl-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy group.

Claim 5, line 1: delete "any one of the preceding claims", insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 6, line 1: delete "any one of the preceding claims", insert -- claim 1 --.

Claim 7, line 1: delete "any one of the preceding claims", insert -- claim 1 --.

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ROBERTS & MERCANTI, L.L.P.

By: *[Signature]*
Michael N. Mercanti